

Amendments to the Claims :

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A fastening device for ~~securing~~ ~~blocking~~ a fuel assembly in a housing of a transport basket, the assembly having a polygonal section and comprising an upper end piece and a lower end piece and the housing having a polygonal section comprising a first open end and a second end, the fastening device comprising:

a connecting device integral with the fastening device and configured to make means for making a rigid connection between the upper end piece of the fuel assembly and the open end of the housing[[,]] in a predetermined relative position such that the fuel assembly bears in contact with two adjacent faces at ~~least one face~~ of the housing on at least part of its length, the connecting device, the means for making a rigid connection being placed above the upper end piece of the fuel assembly and configured to suspend the fuel assembly at the upper end piece, a part of the housing located proximal to the second end of the housing and having a smaller cross-section compared to the first end, wherein the second end has dimensions approximately equal to dimensions of the lower end piece of the fuel assembly.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~[[22]]~~21, in which the fuel assembly and the housing have square sections.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 21, in which the ~~means for making a rigid connection comprises a~~ connecting device is configured to be fixed on the upper end piece of the assembly by first clamping means and ~~that can~~ to be fixed in the open end of the housing by second clamping means.

27. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 26, in which the connecting device includes ~~means for~~ transverse displacement means configured to move the upper end piece of the assembly towards the two adjacent faces of the housing and away from them.

28. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 27, in which the connecting device includes ~~means for~~ axial displacement means configured to move the assembly away from the second end of the housing and towards the second end.

29. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means, the second clamping means, the means for transverse displacement, and the means for axial displacement are activated by separate control devices configured to be maneuvered separately.

30. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 29, in which
the connecting device has a longitudinal axis configured to be oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fuel assembly, and the first clamping means comprises
jaws configured to move onto a first part of the connecting device along
directions approximately radial with respect to the axis,
the second clamping means comprises

a bayonet ring configured to rotate about a second part of the connecting device about the axis,

the means for axial displacement comprises

means for controlling a relative displacement between the first part and the second part along the axis and

the means for transverse displacement comprises

at least one sliding block configured to move onto the first part of the connecting device along a direction approximately radial with respect to the axis, the sliding block also forming part of the second clamping means.

31. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means, the second clamping means, and the means for axial displacement are activated by a single control device.

32. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 31, in which the single control device is a screw, anchored free to rotate on the connecting device, the screw acting on thrust rods forming the first clamping means and the means for axial displacement, and acting on jaws forming the second clamping means, through control rods articulated on the connecting device, on a nut engaged on the screw, on the thrust rods and the jaws, and the means for transverse displacement comprises thrust pads anchored on the connecting device.

33. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means, the ~~means for~~ transverse displacement means, and the ~~means for~~ axial displacement means are activated by a single control device and the second clamping means comprises a separate

attachment device.

34. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 33, in which the single control device is a screw, anchored free to rotate on the connecting device, the screw acting on claws forming the first clamping means, the means for axial displacement, and the means for transverse displacement, through a nut engaged on the screw and on which the claws are articulated.

35-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A connecting device adapted for use with a transport housing capable of containing a fuel assembly therein, the device comprising:

~~a body;~~

a clamping member ~~located on the body and~~ configured to mount the device to a head plate of the transport housing;

a control device ~~coupled to the body, the control device~~ configured to freely rotate along a longitudinal axis, wherein at least a portion of the control device vertically moves along the longitudinal axis upon being rotated in a first direction;

a claw mechanism operably coupled to the control device, wherein the claw mechanism is configured to pivot between a retracted position and an extended position in response to rotation of the control device, wherein the claw mechanism ~~engages~~ is engageable to an upper end piece of the transport housing and moves along with the control device in the longitudinal axis in response to the control device being rotated in ~~the~~ the first direction.

42. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 41 further comprising: a pin guide coupled to the body, the pin guide having a stop surface configured to come into contact with an upper end piece within the transport housing when the device is securely engaged with the transport housing.
43. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 42, wherein the claw mechanism is configured to upwardly move the upper end piece along the longitudinal axis until the upper end piece is securely in contact with the stop surface of the pin guide in response to the control device being further rotated in the first direction.
44. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 41, further comprising a nut coupled to the control device and the claw mechanism, the nut operable to move along the longitudinal axis in response to rotation of the control device, wherein rotation of the control device in a first rotational direction causes the nut to move upward along the longitudinal axis and cause the claw mechanism to pivot outward away from the longitudinal axis.
45. (New) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means and the axial displacement means are activated by a single control device.
46. (New) A device according to claim 45, in which the single control device is a screw, anchored free to rotate on the connecting device, the screw acting on thrust rods forming the first clamping means and the axial displacement means, and acting on jaws forming the second clamping means, through control rods articulated on the connecting device, on a nut engaged on

the screw, on the thrust rods and the jaws, and the transverse displacement means comprises thrust pads anchored on the connecting device.